

Houthi Escalation and Obstruct...

To:	KSA ALL offices Mar 23 2021 (821256715) 23 members (Reply To Tripp@offhillstrategies.com)	Email ID:	347021008
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Dear %%FirstName**default value%%,

On behalf of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, I wanted to provide an update on the conflict in Yemen. Two recent statements by Biden Administration officials underscore that the Iranian-backed Houthis are responsible for prolonging the suffering of the Yemeni people.

On January 12, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. Representative to the United Nations, delivered [remarks](#) at a UN Security Council Briefing on Yemen. Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield addressed the "clear pattern of Houthi escalation and obstruction" that is undermining parallel efforts by the US, UN, and other stakeholders to reach a diplomatic solution to the conflict. Specifically, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield cited the Houthis' seizure of the US Embassy compound in Sana'a; the Houthis' ongoing offensive in Marib; the smuggling of arms from Iran to the Houthis; the Houthis' use of "violence, rape, and other forms of sexual violence, arbitrary detentions and abductions, and targeted killings, including female politicians and professionals"; and the Houthis' cynical exploitation of the Safer oil tanker, which "remains an economic, environmental, and humanitarian timebomb."

Also on January 12, Ned Price, the Spokesperson of the State Department, [addressed](#) the fact that the Houthis have chosen to escalate militarily, rejecting peace efforts by US, UN, and other stakeholders to achieve an immediate, nationwide ceasefire:

We have sought to underline a core point, that the Houthis cannot engage in a military offensive and expect to gain any leverage by that. It will not work for the United States, it will not work for our Saudi partners, it will not work for the UN special envoy and his team when it comes to this. All the continued Houthi offensives will do, whether it's Marib or elsewhere, is aggravate the humanitarian emergency that is gripping the country of Yemen, that for some time, by many estimates, has been home to the world's worst humanitarian catastrophe. So if the Houthis are under the misimpression that continued military advances, continued military offensives will do anything but isolate them and weaken their hand, they are sorely mistaken.

By contrast, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has repeatedly attempted to negotiate in good faith, only to see its overtures rejected by the Houthis. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is committed to achieving a lasting peace in Yemen, based on UNSC Resolution 2216, the GCC initiative, and the outcomes of the National Dialogue.

Sincerely,

Tripp Baird

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